

CHAPTER 2A

CLEARING AND GRUBBING

2A-01. PRE-CONSTRUCTION ACTIONS

a. Extent of Clearing, Grubbing, and Disposal Work

Check by a thorough review of the contract plans, specifications, and by reconnaissance of the area. Check permit restrictions and rights-of-way.

b. Contractor*s Schedule of Operations

Schedule of operations shall be obtained and studied.

c. Work Limits

(1) Determine whether limits have been established in agreement with plans and specifications.

(2) Ensure that area to be cleared and grubbed is clearly marked.

(3) Check the cut-off elevations.

(4) Check depth and size of roots to be removed.

(5) Assure that monuments, markers, special trees are properly protected.

d. Acquisition of Land or Easements

(1) Do not permit contractor to enter any land where easements have not been received or when satisfactory agreement to enter has not been made.

(2) Determine from your supervisor that the rights-of-way are available for construction.

e. Safety of Personnel and Equipment

(1) Identify and post existing and potential hazards, including poison oak, poison ivy, and poison sumac.

(2) Be sure that First Aid Stations are clearly marked and that signs are posted showing location of the station.

(3) Check the contractor*s accident prevention plan for each particular phase of operation before each phase begins.

(4) Check personal protective equipment; hard hats, gloves, snake-proof leggings, etc.

(5) Inspect equipment for fire protection, guarding of moving parts and pinch points.

f. Existing Power lines and Other Utilities

Note whether they are properly posted, protected, relocated, or removed as required.

g. Work Requirements

- (1) Know the requirements for the different areas.
- (2) Check the terrain, soil conditions and growth.

(3) Assure that contractor has proper controls for erosion and drainage, noise and air pollution. Ensure that Environmental Protection Plan, if required, has been approved.

2A-02. CLEARING

a. Swamping

(1) Check removal of underbrush, vines, and small trees that will interfere with felling operations.

(2) Determine the number and spacing of workmen in the area engaged in hand clearing work (brush hook and axe operations) to insure safe working conditions.

(3) Inspect the operation of equipment (power saws, dozers, etc.) for sufficient clearance.

(4) Check protective devices and warning signals of equipment and operators.

(5) Establish that the piling of swamped material does not interfere with felling and logging operations.

b. Felling

(1) Check tree-climbing equipment.

(2) Note any leaning trees, hollow trees, snags or lodged limbs that may cause trouble during felling operations.

(3) Mark and protect trees to be left standing.

(a) Check trimming of trees to be left standing.

(b) Use approved tree wound paint on scars 1-1/2 inches in diameter and larger, caused by falling timber.

(c) If a tree surgeon is required, consult your supervisor.

(4) Ensure that felled trees are kept inside work limits.

(5) Check rig for topping.

(6) Determine that workmen are kept properly positioned, within sight or hearing range during tree felling operations. Insist on overhead protection for bulldozer operators.

(7) Check felling methods when such hazards exist as slopes, slippery terrain, rock, or outcrops.

(a) Check undercutting and wedging.

(b) Inspect the condition of such equipment as axes, crosscut saws, power saws, dozers and winches.

(c) Prevent damage to trees to be left standing , existing structures, and/or structures under construction.

c. Decking (Stacking)

(1) Identify marketable logs.

(2) Inspect hand and power equipment used for bucking operations and the protective equipment required for operators.

(3) Check stacking methods for pile locations, distribution of brush and logs in pile, compaction of pile, and type of decking. Locate piles above high water level.

d. Logging

(1) Check loading and hauling equipment.

(2) Check protective devices and warning signals.

(3) Check access and haul roads for bridge and road limits, clearances, steep grades and hairpin turns.

(4) Check dumping operations.

2A-03. GRUBBING

a. Observe removal depths of all stumps and matted roots.

b. Determine maximum size of roots and other materials that may remain in the area.

c. Check method of measurement and payment.

d. Cut stumps to ground level in revetment areas.

e. See that depressions from grubbing are properly filled and compacted.

f. Inspect operation of equipment.

g. Insure that blasting procedures for stump removal are in accordance with approved methods listed in the Safety and Health Requirements Manual.

h. Check specified limits of grubbing areas.

2A-04. DISPOSAL

Determine the disposal requirements and insist that the operation closely follows the clearing.

a. Check disposal of unsalvageable material. Debris must not enter waterways.

b. Check piling and disposal equipment and procedure and the operators* protective devices.

c. Check arrangements made by the contractor for piling and storage of clearing debris on private lands.

(1) Check that the contractor has a signed letter from the owner acknowledging arrangements made. Get a copy for files.

(2) Report to your supervisor any unwarranted entry by the contractor or unauthorized disposal of material on privately-owned lands.

d. Locate debris areas above high water flow lines.

e. Observe location, number and size of piles.

f. Check local fire district, county, state, Environmental Protection Agency, and US Forest Service Regulations prior to burning.

(1) Location and size of piles.

(2) Time of year burning is permitted.

(3) Standby equipment required.

g. Assure that burning is not allowed in areas where it might cause damage to existing structures, construction in progress, trees, and other vegetation.

h. Check burning schedule for interference with other operations.

i. Determine the kind and usage of fire kindling materials.

j. Complete decking prior to the start of any burning operations.

k. Do not permit burning in high winds.

l. Require constant attendance of burning operations.

m. Check suitability and safety of operations for periodic bunching of deck materials during burning.

n. Ensure that fire fighting equipment and personnel are supplied by the contractor.

o. Ensure burning is complete. Reduce materials to ashes.

p. Provide that no burning is permitted on the surface of revetments, roads, or existing rock or gravel-type construction.

2A-05. CLEAN-UP

Thoroughly check final cleanup.